

Remarks

Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 6, 7, and 12 were cancelled previously. Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are cancelled herein. Claims 13-20 are newly presented. No new matter is added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang, et al., (U.S. 5,917,819 – Yang).

The arguments presented in response to the Final Rejection dated August 30, 2006 are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. However, claims 3-5 and 8-11 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 13-22 are discussed below with respect to Yang.

Yang describes a two-stage hierarchical look-up function performed in an ATM switch. A first lookup engine at a receiving input/output module (IOM) determines all IOMs in the switch that have ports that will transmit a received cell. A second lookup engine, at each transmitting IOM, determines which ports of the particular IOM will transmit.

In contrast, the invention as recited in new claims 13-22 is switch that has a lookup engine (hardware) to retrieve an initial port bitmask (claim 13) or data associated with a received packet (claim 22). The operation of the hardware is interlocked with the operation of a network processor that can operate in parallel with the lookup engine to modify a port bitmask of the

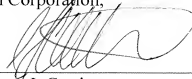
received packet. The lookup engine cannot forward the packet until released by the network processor. The network processor then sends the look-up engine an indication that the processing function has been executed. This is very different than what is described in Yang.

The Examiner is requested to point with specificity to any teaching in Yang that describes a lookup engine logically coupled to a network processor, as claimed.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-3650.

Respectfully submitted,
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